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**Co-operation with Ukraine – Immediate Measures Package**

**INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT  
April – August 2014**

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## ORIGIN AND FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

At the 1196th meeting of the Committee of Ministers, held on 2 and 3 April 2014, the Secretary General recalled “the objective to offer Ukraine the best possible support to overcome the current crisis and to carry out the necessary reforms in line with the Council of Europe standards”<sup>1</sup>. The Secretary General informed the Committee of Ministers that a package of immediate measures (IMP) has been developed in order to answer immediate legislative and capacity-building needs. The Committee of Ministers welcomed the initiative and encouraged its rapid implementation<sup>2</sup>.

The “**Co-operation with Ukraine – Immediate Measures Package**” (ODG-Prog/Inf(2014)7) covers the following thematic priority areas:

- Ensuring the Protection of Human Rights;
- Constitutional reform;
- Elections;
- Capacity-building for Parliamentarians;
- Civil Society;
- Secretary General’s Special Advisor;
- Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Support to the CoE Office in Kyiv.

The present 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Narrative Report (INR) covers the implementation period from April to August 2014. It presents an overview of the IMP **implementation results to date** and presents a **work plan** for the future activities of the IMP until December 2014. 65 activities are included in the IMP, of which 20 have now been completed, 10 are under way, and 35 are planned for completion by December 2014.

Funding has been secured for the entire package for the period 2 April – 31 December 2014 with voluntary contributions provided by the following CoE member and observer states: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and Japan.

Detailed and updated information on the implementation of the IMP activities is available in the Council of Europe Activity Database. Project Reference: **VC 3175**<sup>3</sup>.

A second INR covering the period from September to November will be presented to the CM in December. The Final Narrative and Financial Report will be submitted in March 2015. An external audit and evaluation will be conducted at the end of the IMP implementation period.

<sup>1</sup>Speaking Notes of the Secretary General to the 1196<sup>th</sup> of the Ministers’ Deputies (2 April), Item 1.8 Situation in Ukraine, 2 April 2014, SG/Inf(2014)16

<sup>2</sup> CM/Del/Dec(2014)1196/1.8E / 04 April 2014

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://www.dsp.coe.int/PMM/interface/Projects.asp?ViewProjectID=3175&submit1=Go%21&ID>

## CURRENT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

### 1. Ensuring the Protection of Human Rights

#### 1.1. Effective investigations

**Objective<sup>4</sup>:** *to support the authorities and society to address effectively issues of human rights violations resulting from abusive and/or excessive use of force during the recent violent events.*

**Proposed Action<sup>5</sup>:**

- *To support the setting-up of the International Advisory Panel;*
- *To support the investigation into serious human rights violations which took place, through expert workshops: help to secure evidence and police records, etc.;*
- *To organise a capacity building activity on effective investigations on massive human rights violations, in Kyiv in April or beginning of May 2014. Themes covered: documentation of cases of ill-treatment and forensic examination, with exchange of best practices.*

#### Results to date:

The International Advisory Panel (IAP) was established by the Secretary General to ensure that investigations of violent incidents which took place in Ukraine from November 2013 onwards meet all the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). The IAP is chaired by Sir Nicolas Bratza, former President of the ECtHR. The other members are Mr Volodymyr Butkevych, a former judge in the ECtHR and Mr Oleg Anpilogov, a former prosecutor.

The IAP held three working sessions in Strasbourg (on 9-11 April, on 5-7 May and on 16-18 June) and the Chair of the IAP visited Ukraine (on 3-5 July) and held meetings with national stakeholders to explain the IAP's work and objectives and secure co-operation. The 4th IAP meeting was held in Kyiv (on 30 July-1 August) with the Prosecutor General, a deputy to the Minister of Interior and deputy ministers from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice.

With regard to the Effective Investigations component, a stakeholder meeting took place in Kyiv to in July and August to further assess needs and to agree on supportive measures.

#### Future actions (September – December 2014):

- IAP meetings in Kyiv and Strasbourg to examine information submitted by the Ukrainian authorities concerning the investigations;
- An International Stakeholder Conference to support the investigation process through the exchange of good practices;
- A series of workshops providing expert support on investigation standards and techniques;
- Urgent capacity-development of the National Preventive Mechanism of the Ombudsperson's Office: training in the prevention of ill-treatment and torture (CPT methodology and standards) and provision of technical support as well as procurement of necessary technical equipment;

<sup>4</sup> "Objective" as foreseen in "Co-operation with Ukraine – Immediate measures package", ODGProg/Inf (2014)7.

<sup>5</sup> "Proposed Action" as foreseen in "Co-operation with Ukraine – Immediate measures package", ODGProg/Inf (2014)7.

- Capacity-development for legal professions (lawyers, judges, prosecutors) improving the response to human rights violation through training in human rights standards, including social and economic rights standards;
- A study and a workshop to support the rehabilitation of victims.

**Implementation partners:** Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Justice, Ombudsperson's Office, Prosecutor General's Office, Bar Association, Free Legal Aid system, civil society, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).

## 1.2. National Minorities

**Objective:** *to support authorities in restoring minority communities' confidence in public authorities and institutions.*

**Proposed Action**

- *To establish a regular consultation mechanism between the government and representatives of all national minorities;*
- *To advise the government on key measures and messages on this mechanism for the general public.*

**Objective:** *to raise awareness of minority rights under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and to share international experience and good practice.*

**Proposed Action**

- *To organise a training of relevant officials, including from the Ministry of Interior and law enforcement;*
- *To conduct joint round-table with government officials and representatives of national minorities to raise awareness of the rights and obligations under the FCNM, in particular with regard to language rights.*

### Results to date:

The CoE has contributed to raising awareness of the FCNM and assisted in the development of a constructive dialogue between relevant Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Education, and national minority representatives on issues pertaining to minority language education. A conference on "Protecting minority rights – reinforcing social cohesion" was organised in Kyiv in May 2014 to ensure follow-up of the findings of the FCNM visit to Ukraine in March 2014, in the areas of language issues, education rights and the effective participation of national minorities in public life.

The CoE provides ongoing advice to relevant officials of the Ministries of Culture and Education and also to the newly appointed Government Envoy on Ethno-national Policy to ensure effective implementation of Ukraine's obligations under the FCNM. The CoE holds ongoing consultations with national minority representatives in Kyiv and in the regions to learn about their concerns, to raise their awareness on international minority rights protection standards, and to enhance the visibility of the role of the Envoy and the Inter-ethnic Accord Council as a newly-established mechanism to facilitate consultation between Government and national minorities.

Contacts have also been established with local NGO partners and media to ensure cooperation on issues related to the promotion of tolerance and respect for ethnic diversity, prevention of hate speech and protection of national minority rights.

**Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- A seminar for journalists and editors "National minorities in Ukraine's media discourse: combatting stereotypes and hate speech", in cooperation with the NGO, "Internews", to address the coverage and perspectives on national minorities in the media;
- A regional round-table on education rights under the FCNM in Chernivtsi, gathering local authorities, school administrators, teachers and minority representatives;
- Production of a radio programme, "Citizens of Ukraine", in cooperation with the public radio station, "Hromadske Radio", for promoting respect for ethnic diversity in Ukraine;
- A photo-exhibition "Together" in Kherson, Mykolayiv and Kyiv focusing on identities, rights and lives of various ethnic communities in Ukraine;
- A series of lectures on Crimean Tatar culture, religion, history and current challenges in Lviv to maintain/promote inter-ethnic understanding and tolerance;
- Two to four smaller round-tables on issues pertaining to minority protection, in particular on effective participation of national minorities in public life in Ukraine;
- Co-operation with Kyiv International Institute for Sociology to include questions on societal attitudes to language issues in the current environment into their regular survey to assist the Government in the development of strategic policy recommendations.

**Implementation partners:** Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Inter-ethnic Accord Council, regional authorities, local authorities, school administrators, minority organisations, Hromadske Radio, NGO "Internews Ukraine", NGO "Krym SOS", educational centre "Tolerspace" and "Congress of National Minorities of Ukraine".

## 2. Constitutional reform

### 2.1. Constitutional process support

**Objective:** *to provide support to the constitutional process in order to ensure that constitutional amendments are in line with Council of Europe standards.*

**Proposed Action**

- *The Venice Commission adopts an Opinion on the draft amendments to the Constitution;*
- *The Venice Commission provides assistance to members of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukrainian experts and officials on the possible amendments to the Constitution;*
- *Public meetings on the issue are held in order to ensure civil society involvement in the process.*

**Results to date:**

The Venice Commission provides ongoing expert assistance to the constitutional and electoral reforms in Ukraine. In April and May 2014, members of the Venice Commission held two exchanges of views with the Constitutional Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to discuss a draft of the new Constitution. On 2 July, the authorities of Ukraine submitted draft amendments to the Venice Commission. On 17 July 2014, meetings were held with Mr Knyazevich, representative of Mr Poroshenko in the Rada and one of the co-authors of the draft constitutional amendments. On 24 July the Venice Commission transmitted the draft opinion on the draft amendments to the Ukrainian authorities.

A new set of amendments, which should integrate some recommendations of the draft opinion, is expected later this year.

**Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- The draft interim opinion on the amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine, submitted on 2 July will be discussed at the 100<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Venice Commission in October 2014;
- The Venice Commission will prepare a final opinion as soon as it receives an official request from the Ukrainian authorities on the final draft of the constitutional amendments;
- A public event on the new draft Constitution will be held after the release of the final opinion of the Venice Commission.

**Implementation partners:** Verkhovna Rada, Presidential administration.

## 2.2. Legislative reform concerning public assemblies

**Objective:** *to improve the national legal framework regulating Public Assemblies in view of the forthcoming election(s) and in light of the ECtHR judgements.*

**Proposed Action:**

- *The Council of Europe assists in the drafting and adopting of a new legal framework for public assemblies taking into account ECtHR judgements (Vyerentsov vs. Ukraine (20372/11)).*

**Results to date:**

Together with national stakeholders, a needs assessment was carried out and supportive measures agreed.

**Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- A strategy seminar for police on best practices for police during public assemblies, with the focus on the prohibition of excessive use of force and other aspects raised by the ECtHR;
- An awareness-raising seminar for judges and prosecutors on the consequences of the Vyerentsov v. Ukraine judgement of the ECtHR<sup>6</sup> (freedom of assembly and association, the right to a fair trial and the right to judicial process before punishment).

**Implementation partners:** Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Verkhovna Rada, National Academy of Prosecutors of Ukraine, National School of Judges, CPT.

## 2.3. Local democracy

**Objective:** *to provide expertise and support for constitutional reform with regard to local self-government and for draft legislation that is already under consideration, in particular on territorial reform, inter-municipal co-operation promotion, Budget Code, local elections and participatory democracy.*

**Proposed Action**

- *The Council of Europe provides relevant legal expertise;*
- *A peer review and forum on local self-government is organised.*

**Results to date:**

The Head of the CoE Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform was deployed in Kyiv to work closely with the Ministry of Regional Development on its reform agenda in the area of decentralisation. Decentralisation in general, and territorial and regional reform in particular, was discussed with the Deputy Prime Minister (Hroysman), the First Deputy Minister (Nehoda) and the Special Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister (Koshelyuk, currently Deputy Minister responsible for European integration issues), amongst others. Several key documents on territorial reform were prepared in the framework of the Concept for decentralisation (prepared with the support of the CoE and adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers): the law on voluntary amalgamation (sent, after the second reading, by the Verkhovna Rada to the Parliamentary Committee on State Building and

<sup>6</sup> Application no. 20372/11



Local Self-Government for improvement); the law on co-operation between Territorial Communities (by the Verkhovna Rada and entered into force on 24 July 2014). Task forces are being established to provide assistance to national authorities on decentralisation and local government reform.

With the support of the CoE, a concrete action plan on **inter-municipal co-operation (IMC)** was adopted and is being implemented in co-ordination with the Ministry of Regional Development of Ukraine. Activities already implemented: template agreements (5) on IMC were drafted; the selection of pilots for concluding IMC agreements was completed.

The CoE is involved on a permanent basis, in the activity of the expert group working on the draft law on **voluntary amalgamation**. A second reading of the improved draft law by the Verkhovna Rada is expected in mid-September. Once this law is adopted, the CoE will take the lead in organising the task force which should prepare its implementation.

The Ministry of Regional Development in co-ordination with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, following the instruction of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, initiated drafting a law on municipal police. The CoE participates in the expert group activity. Proposals by the CoE local expert were discussed and approved by the ministerial expert group. The first presentation of the draft law (based on the concept approved) is planned for September.

**The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** (the Congress) observed the pre-term municipal elections in May and estimated that the local elections were "a positive test and an important step towards decentralisation in Ukraine"<sup>7</sup>. The Congress welcomed the fact that the Ukrainian authorities have taken into account its previous recommendations.

The Congress enhanced the dialogue on the decentralisation reform and draft of the new electoral legislation with representatives of the government, central electoral administration, civil society and the media. It held preparatory meetings on the post-monitoring dialogue (May) and a high-level visit to Kyiv and Odessa (July), during which the Congress delegation met with the Vice Prime-Minister and the Minister of Regional Development, the Deputy Chairman of the Parliament, mayors of Kyiv and Odessa and other officials. The Ukrainian Ministry for Regional Development endorsed the proposed post-monitoring programme (PMP) for the strengthening of local self-government in Ukraine<sup>8</sup>.

The Congress also provided the Venice Commission with a legal opinion on constitutional amendments regarding the European Charter of Local Self-Government. The Venice Commission's preliminary opinion underlines that the changes made concerning local self-government and decentralisation are largely in line with European standards on local democracy.

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<sup>7</sup> Press Release CG 21(2014) of 26 May 2014

<sup>8</sup> The 2014-2015 post-monitoring dialogue aims at drawing a road map to strengthen local self-government in Ukraine following the Congress Recommendation on local and regional democracy in Ukraine (Recommendation (348)(2013)), as part of the CoE revised Action Plan for Ukraine 2011-2014.

Through a series of regional seminars, the Congress is also trying to raise awareness amongst young local leaders on the principles of local and regional democracy, in order to spread a culture of local political governance in the country.

**Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- 3 consultations on territorial reform in the regions between the Ministry of Regional Development and the representatives of local authorities, civil society and citizens in different cities in Ukraine;
- A study visit in Estonia on inter-municipal cooperation for pilot municipalities and members of the task force;
- A high-level international conference and peer review on “Municipal territorial consolidation: European trends and solutions for amalgamation and co-operation”, in Kyiv;
- Participation of selected young local leaders from Ukraine in the World Forum for Democracy (November 2014, Strasbourg);
- A workshop, “Mayors leaders for change”, in Kyiv, for a group of newly elected mayors to develop their leadership capacities and to share best practices in the field of local democracy.
- The task force on the amalgamation of local authorities will start its work after adoption of the revised draft law;
- Support will continue to be provided to task forces on IMC and municipal police;
- The CoE will be involved in discussions on the preparation of the basic law on local self-government and on the Budget Code.

**Implementation partners:** Ministry of Regional Development, Central Election Administration, local and regional authorities and their associations, OSCE/ODIHR, civil society.

### 3. Elections

#### 3.1. Election preparation assistance

**Objective:** *to provide support with a view to ensuring that European standards are applied to the electoral law.*

**Proposed Action**

- *The Venice Commission works together with the Verkhovna Rada, on access to voting in Ukraine and abroad;*
- *Taking into account the ECHR case law and Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, European standards in the field of electoral complaints and appeals procedures are promoted (if requested by the High Administrative Court)*

**Objective:** *to ensure that the reform of legislation on parliamentary and local elections is carried out in accordance with European standards and in line with the previous Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR recommendations.*

**Proposed Action**

- *The Venice Commission provides expertise through a series of events on electoral reform and practice.*

#### **Results to date:**

The Venice Commission is currently providing expert assistance on constitutional amendments and legislative reforms.

The Venice Commission held informal exchanges of views with representatives of the Ukrainian authorities and national experts on the proposed reforms. Some initial proposals made in the framework of the current package as well as deadlines for concrete activities had to be revised based on these discussions.

As part of the international election observation mission, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) conducted the monitoring of the presidential election process. The PACE delegation held meetings with candidates for election, the chairperson of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine, and members of international presence, such as the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission, EU delegation, NATO Office, members of civil society and media. As a result, PACE proposed a number of measures to be implemented by the Ukrainian authorities so as to improve the integrity, transparency and quality of the election process (Doc. 13543 Observation of the early presidential election in Ukraine (25 May 2014), Election observation report).

#### **Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- Preparation of legal opinions on the new legislation on elections by the Venice Commission<sup>9</sup>;
- A workshop on problems related to electoral complaints and appeals procedures following amendments to electoral legislation for the subjects of the electoral process<sup>10</sup>;

<sup>9</sup>Depending on the adoption of the new legislation on parliamentary elections by the Verkhovna Rada

<sup>10</sup>Depending on the adoption of the new legislation on parliamentary elections by the Verkhovna Rada

- A conference on the reform of the electoral legislation and practice in Ukraine following 2014 presidential and parliamentary elections and to discuss the implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations (one of the objectives of the conference will consist in proposing a “road-map” for the future reform of the electoral legislation).
- PACE support for the parliamentary election process.

**Implementation partners:** Verkhovna Rada, Central Electoral Commission, Administrative courts, national NGOs.

### 3.2. Domestic observation of elections

**Objective:** *to contribute to the integrity, transparency and quality of the election process in Ukraine and prevent potential electoral fraud.*

**Proposed Action**

- *To increase the capacity of domestic election observation, monitoring and reporting through a training of trainers programme.*

**Results to date:**

110 trainers and over 4,000 domestic observers received training on international election standards and report-writing techniques, as well as communication with media and media-monitoring techniques, based on the CoE Handbooks and standards that were translated into Ukrainian and disseminated to the participants. 3 Training of Trainers and 62 subsequent regional training sessions provided nationwide geographical coverage and were conducted in cooperation with the major civil society organisations, CVU and OPORA.

**Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- Training of the remaining group of domestic observers ahead of parliamentary elections, in cooperation with local partners;
- The elaboration of reports and analysis on election disputes, existing practice and recommendations on improvement of electoral procedures and legal provisions;
- Raising awareness of voters and electoral candidates on the existing regulations regarding election disputes through training of lawyer-observers through the development of a reporting methodology and forms, as well as an educational booklet on election complaints and appeals for lawyer-observers.

**Implementation partners:** Central Election Commission, CVU (a local/regional NGO), OPORA (a local/regional NGO), OSCE/ODIHR, European Parliament, NATO-PA.

### 3.3. Media coverage of elections

**Objective:** *to contribute to fair and balanced media coverage of the presidential election by the national state-funded broadcaster and eight commercial channels.*

**Proposed Action**

- *To monitor and to provide feedback on media coverage of the May 2014 presidential elections by the state-funded broadcaster, the National Television Company of Ukraine, which covers 97% of the territory via its regional channels and eight commercial channels.*

**Results to date:**

The CoE monitored the media coverage of the Ukrainian presidential election campaign in cooperation with two local partners; the association, "Spilnyi Prostir-ASP / Equal Access Committee" and the organisation, "Telekritika". The monitoring provided public oversight over national and regional state television, and the CoE offered advice on CoE media standards to the news-room of the national TV, Pershyi Natsionalnyi, and the regional state TV channels. The project raised awareness on measures developed to achieve fair and balanced media coverage of election campaigns amongst media professionals and contributed to improve the quality of information in the media and the level of media literacy of voters.

The preliminary results of the media monitoring were presented at the press conference, "The role of the Ukrainian and Russian mass media in the 2014 presidential election campaign" (23 May). The final results and the draft recommendations of the project were presented at the conference, "Media monitoring: evaluation, challenges and forward-looking solutions" (6 June) and the regional round tables, held nationwide (with the exception of Donetsk, Luhansk and Crimea).

**Implementation partners:** Telekritika (local/regional NGO), Spilnyi Prostir-ASP/Equal Access Committee (local/regional NGO), Rastislav Kužel (CoE international expert on media monitoring).

#### 4. Capacity-building for Parliamentarians

**Objective:** *to increase awareness of procedural guidelines on the rights and responsibilities of the majority and the opposition for members of the Verkhovna Rada (PACE Resolution 1601 (2008)); to promote standards and mechanisms to counter corruption in Parliament, including codes of conduct and ethics for Parliamentarians.*

**Proposed Action**

- *Interparliamentary seminar for members of the Verkhovna Rada together with experts from the Venice Commission and GRECO.*

**Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- A capacity-building seminar for the staff of the Verkhovna Rada to raise awareness of CoE standards and policies in the fields of human rights and the rule of law, and to reinforce their capacity to accompany members of parliament through the legislative process;
- An interparliamentary seminar for members of the Verkhovna Rada, to exchange experiences with parliamentarians and experts from other countries on the rights and responsibilities of the majority and the opposition in democratic parliaments; on standard mechanisms to counter corruption in parliament, and codes of conduct and ethics for parliamentarians. (tbc)

**Implementation partners:** Parliamentarians from CoE member states, Venice Commission, GRECO, ECtHR, Verkhovna Rada.

## 5. Civil Society

**Objective:** *to institutionalise effective participation of civil society in decision-making processes and make it sustainable.*

**Proposed Action**

- *To organise joint training activities for civil servants and civil society on the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-making Process of the INGO Conference;*
- *To support the School of Political Studies.*

**Results to date:**

Civil society networks and their co-ordination were strengthened through dialogue and exchange of good practices. Awareness of key issues of public policy, principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights was raised amongst civil society participants.

Representatives of Ukrainian NGOs participated in the regional strategic planning meeting for Eastern Partnership countries, "Civil society participation in decision-making: dreams, reality and challenges", held in June. The meeting was instrumental to review the environment for civil participation, to discuss the institutional frameworks for civil society organisations to influence agenda setting and decision making and to identify priorities of action in Ukraine.

Civil society representatives from Ukraine attended the June session of the INGO Conference and the Parliamentary Assembly and participated in several events. During this visit, they met the CoE Secretary General, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the PACE rapporteur on Ukraine, a representative of the Venice Commission and senior officials. They discussed possibilities of cooperation to enhance civil society's participation in the constitutional and legislative reform processes. The participants requested the Conference of INGOs to share best practices in order to develop sustainable mechanisms for NGO involvement in political decision making.

Together with Ukrainian partners, the CoE is currently mapping legislation, its implementation, and established practices for the functioning of civil society organisations in Ukraine and their interaction with authorities. In order to support the institutionalisation of effective participation by civil society in the democratic reform process, several meetings were held with representatives of civil society, parliament, government and international organisations.

The aforementioned activities are implemented with a group of leading Ukrainian civil society representatives who are also the CoE interlocutors and sounding board for assessing the efficiency of Council of Europe action and planning for future action. This allows for continuous adaptation of the immediate measures to the changing environment in Ukraine.

During the 1st international School of Political Studies (SPS) alumni conference, held in June 2014 in Strasbourg, the Ukrainian SPS participants exchanged their views and experiences with their counterparts from neighbouring countries, including Russia. The CoE is currently conducting a special course via the Ukraine SPS for participants from Eastern and Southern Ukraine on key issues of public policy, to help restore trust and mutual understanding, to promote reconciliation and harmonisation of regional positions on major political and social concerns. The first event was held in Dnipropetrovsk, Eastern Ukraine, in July.

**Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- Visit of a group of civil society representatives from Ukraine to the Council of Europe;
- A series of 3 meetings between local government, civil society and media representatives, aimed at promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue in the regions;
- An evaluation meeting of the previous six months' cooperation modalities between representatives of civil society, government and parliament;
- Preparation of a strategy by a multi-stakeholder group on concrete measures to establish a sustainable platform for cooperation;
- High-level round table discussion on the concrete modalities for sustainable dialogue between civil society and authorities;
- Two study visits to Latvia and the Netherlands for the staff of the Ukrainian State Registration Service;
- Second part of the special course of the Ukraine SPS, to be held in Odessa;
- A series of 10 "Town Hall" meetings on constitutional reform and conflict prevention gathering around 500 participants from civil society leaders, experts and SPS alumni, in Kyiv and five other regions of Ukraine;
- A Policy-Development and Confidence-Building Academy for Civil Society Leaders and Policy-makers from the Black Sea region to discuss solutions to regional policy problems in the areas of democratic institution-building, human rights and cooperative security policy;
- Participation in the third World Forum for Democracy and at an additional event on confidence-building measures for the participants of the two special courses of the Ukraine School of Political Studies.

**Implementation partners:** Centre for Transparency and Civic Participation, "Particip" (Local/National NGO), Ukraine School of Political Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Agency for Legislative Initiatives (National NGO); Conference of INGOs.



## **6. Secretary General's Special Advisor on Ukraine**

### **Results to date:**

The Secretary General appointed a Special Advisor (SGSA), Jeroen Schokkenbroek, to assist the President of the Verkhovna Rada from March to June, and the CoE Director of Human Rights, Christos Giakoumopoulos, as from 3 July, who provided the Ukrainian authorities with expert assistance on constitutional and electoral reform.

The SGSA was involved in several legislative reform processes, notably by taking part in meetings of parliamentary committees and bilateral consultations with the authorities, providing advice and facilitating or mobilising timely CoE expert comments to the Verkhovna Rada and the Government (in particular the Ministry of Justice). The topics addressed include the constitutional reform process; reform of the judiciary, including constitutional changes to and improvement of the law on the status of judges and the judiciary and the "Judiciary Lustration law" (adopted on 8 April 2014); criminal justice reform, including the preparation of the draft law on the Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO) for the second reading, establishment of the National Bureau of Investigations, potential amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), amendments to the law on the status of prisoners (adopted on 8 April 2014); possible amendments to the language legislation; anti-discrimination amendments package (adopted on 15 May 2014); legislation on higher education (adopted on 1 July 2014).

The CoE Director of Human Rights discussed different reform needs and projects with authorities, representatives of civil society and of the international community. During his visit to Kyiv on 14 and 15 July, he met with Mr Yaroslav Romaniuk, President of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, and discussed progress in judicial reform. In the period between 25 and 29 August, the Director of Human Rights met Mr Arsen Avakov, Minister of the Interior, to discuss the preparation of law-enforcement reform, Mr Vitaliy Yarema, Prosecutor General, to discuss progress of implementation of the judicial reform, as well as Mr Dmytro Shymkiv, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, to discuss opportunities for cooperation between the CoE and the National Reform Council initiated by President Poroshenko and established under the Presidential Administration.

On 17 July, the CoE Director of Human Rights paid a working visit to Brussels to discuss coordination and co-operation between the CoE and the EU. During his mission to Ukraine on 25-29 August, he held coordination meetings with representatives of the EU Delegation in Kyiv.

### **Future actions (September – December 2014):**

- An International Stakeholder Conference to address the state of investigations of the Maidan events human rights violations and complementary capacity-building measures;
- Based on the request by the Ukrainian authorities, support will be provided to prepare a comprehensive concept for the reform of the justice system, as well as draft laws on police and policing, the National Bureau of Investigations, the draft law on IDPs and other pieces of legislation and regulations concerning the effective implementation of the reforms undertaken.

**Implementing partners:** Verkhovna Rada, Presidential Administration, and Government.

## **7. Commissioner for Human Rights**

### **Results to date:**

The Commissioner for Human Rights visited Kyiv and Odessa between 16 and 18 June and held meetings with the Minister of Justice, the Prosecutor General and representatives of civil society and international organisations. Details on this visit and its outcome are included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Activity Report (April-June 2014) of the Commissioner<sup>11</sup>.

In order to assist the Ukrainian authorities in addressing the main problems identified in the report published by the Commissioner following his visit to Ukraine between 4 and 10 February 2014,<sup>12</sup> the Office of the Commissioner has deployed a Human Rights Adviser (HRA) in Kyiv, who is in direct contact with human rights actors *in situ*, including the government, NGOs and the Ombudsperson's Office. The HRA is closely following human rights developments in Ukraine.

### **Future actions:**

The HRA will report directly to the Commissioner and assist him in the context of future visits to Ukraine. The Commissioner will exchange views with the Committee of Ministers in due course.

## **8. Support to the Council of Europe Office in Kyiv**

To provide support to the IMP, the CoE Office in Kyiv has been reinforced and currently comprises over 40 staff members working on co-operation activities in Ukraine.

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<sup>11</sup> Document CommDH(2014)17, available on the Commissioner's website

<sup>12</sup> Document CommDH(2014)7, available on the Commissioner's website